

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 256235

64
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

NEA-06 SCCT-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 IO-10 SAM-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /047 R

DRAFTED BY P;EDJEREJIAN:SB

APPROVED BY P - JJSISCO

S/S:JMEALUM

----- 049074

O 202253Z NOV 74 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USDEL KYOTO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 256235

TOSEC 188

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S INTERVIEW ON "TODAY" SHOW

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SISCO

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS TEXT OF INTERVIEW I HAD ON "TODAY" SHOW OF NOVEMBER 20. DINITZ AND SHALEV CALLED ME TO EXPRESS THEIR SATISFACTION WITH IT.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TEXT: QUOTE: MR. VALERIANI:
MR. SISCO, YOU SAID ON MONDAY IN AN INTERVIEW TO BE PUBLISHED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY THAT THE UNITED STATES NOW REGARDS THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AS THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR ALL PALESTINIANS. NOW THAT SEEMS TO GO FURTHER THAN YOU'VE EVER GONE BEFORE.

3. MR. SISCO: DICK, I THINK THAT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE WAY
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 256235

TO PUT IT. ACTUALLY WHAT I WAS TRYING TO REFLECT WAS THAT THE ARABS CONSIDER THE PLO AS THE UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION. NOW LET ME MAKE VERY CLEAR THAT OUR POLICY IS AS STATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE. WE'VE ACCORDED

NO RECOGNITION OF ANY KIND; OUR POSITION REMAINS UNCHANGED.

4. I THINK SOME PEOPLE HAVE READ SOMETHING INTO THAT, I
WAS REALLY TRYING TO STATE A FACT AS CONCEIVED BY THE ARABS,

THAT THE ARABS DO CONCEIVE OF THE PLO AS THE UMBRELLA
ORGANIZATION.

5. MR. VALERIANI: YOU SEEM TO BE PREPARING THE GROUNDWORK
FOR BRINGING THE PLO INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. MR. SISCO: NO, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE, DICK.
AGAIN, I'VE GOT TO underscore THAT OUR POSITION REMAINS
UNCHANGED. LET'S LOOK FOR EXAMPLE AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FOR THE MOMENT. WE HAD A MAJOR SPEECH THAT WAS MADE BY
ARAFAT QUITE RECENTLY. I FOUND NO OPENINGS IN THAT SPEECH.
AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE
LAST FRIDAY, HE HARDLY SAW THAT AS A MODERATE APPROACH.
THERE WAS NO, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT IMPLICATION
OF GIVING UP TERRORISM AS A MATTER OF POLICY. THE PROPOSAL
FOR A SECULAR STATE WOULD REALLY HAVE THE AFFECT OF
NEGATING THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AS WE KNOW
IT. SO THAT, I THINK, IN TERMS OF THAT PARTICULAR SPEECH,
I SAW NO OPENING.

7. MR. VALERIANI: BUT DOESN'T THE DECISION BY THE ARAB
SUMMIT MEETING IN RABAT TO ALLOW THE PLO TO NEGOTIATE FOR
ALL PALESTINIANS IN EFFECT THROW THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS
INTO DEADLOCK?

8. MR. SISCO: NO, I DON'T THINK THAT WE'RE AT AN IMPASSE
OR AT A DEADLOCK. I'D BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT RABAT,
I THINK, HAS BEEN COMPLICATING TO OUR EFFORT. BUT, DICK,
YOU WERE ON THIS RECENT TRIP WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.
THE THING THAT STRUCK ME FROM THIS RECENT TRIP WAS THAT
BOTH SIDES WERE AT GREAT PAINS TO EXPHASIZE THAT THE DOORS
OF DIPLOMACY REMAINED OPEN. NOTE FOR EXAMPLE THE STRONG
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 256235

ENDORSEMENT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE SECRETARY'S MISSION
THAT CAME OUT OF CAIRO. LIKEWISE IN SAUDI ARABIA AND ELSE-
WHERE. I THINK THE DOORS REMAIN OPEN, AND I THINK THAT
WHAT WE CAN EXPECT OVER THE COMING WEEKS IS A PERIOD OF
QUIET DIPLOMACY, LARGEMLY WITHIN THE CONFINES OF DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS BUT OUR EFFORTS ARE GOING TO CONTINUE AND THEY'RE
GOING TO CONTINUE PRIMARILY BECAUSE BOTH SIDES WANT OUR
EFFORTS TO CONTINUE.

9. MISS WALTERS: FIRST OF ALL, MR. SISCO--PERHAPS ON YOUR
WAY TO OUR STUDIO--IN OUR LAST HOUR WE HAD THE CHIEF SPOKES
MAN FOR THE PLO DELEGATION TO THE UN IN THIS COUNTRY WHO
SAID THAT THE PALESTINIAN ATTACKS WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL WHEN

THE ISRAELIS NEGOTIATED WITH THE PLO. I'D LIKE TO ASK TWO QUESTIONS. FIRST OF ALL, UP UNTIL RECENTLY, THERE HAD BEEN

THE FEELING AS EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT, THAT THE ARABS WERE BEGINNING TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AS A SOVEREIGN JEWISH STATE AND WOULD NEGOTIATE ON THOSE TERMS. THEN WITH THE RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE PLO WHICH SAYS THEY WANT A SECULAR STATE, ONE ISN'T TOO SURE WHAT THE PREVAILING ARAB POINT OF VIEW IS AND WHETHER PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENTS IN THE PAST DID RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. CAN YOU GIVE US AN IDEA OF WHAT THE PREVAILING ARAB VIEWPOINT IS NOW?

10. MR SISCO: YES, I THINK I CAN, BARBARA. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE PRINCIPLE ARAB STATES THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER HAVE ALL IN THE PAST, AND THEY HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR POSITION IN THIS REGARD, SUPPORTED RESOLUTION 242, THE NOVEMBER 1967 SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND A SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTION THAT CALLS FOR NEGOTIATION I HAVE DETECTED, BARBARA, NO CHANGE IN THAT ATTITUDE AND THOSE TWO RESOLUTIONS ARE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION OF CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN ARAB STATES AND AN ISRAELI STATE.

11. MISS WALTERS: MAY I ASK THE SECOND QUESTION THEN. OVER THE WEEKEND WHEN THERE WAS A SCARE OF A POSSIBLE WAR, THE THREAT OF A POSSIBLE WAR, A VERY IMMINENT WAR BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, SECRETARY KISSINGER TALKED WITH THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR, TALKED WITH ARAB LEADERS, HE ALSO
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 256235

TALKED WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND RECEIVED SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE THAT PUT A DAMPER ON THE FEARS OF THE WAR. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY IDEA OF WHAT THAT CONVERSATION WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS INVOLVED?

12. MR. SISCO: OBVIOUSLY BARBARA, I CAN'T GO INTO THE DETAILS AND YOU'RE RIGHT, THE SECRETARY DID UNDERTAKE ALL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. THE ONLY THING I WOULD SAY ABOUT SOVIET POLICY WHICH INDIRECTLY REALLY GETS AT WHAT YOU'VE ASKED, IS THAT I BELIEVE THERE IS A MUTUAL RECOGNITION, BOTH IN MOSCOW AND IN WASHINGTON, THAT THERE IS A MUTUAL INTEREST THAT THE MIDDLE EAST NOT BREAK OUT INTO ANOTHER WAR. I THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT THAT BOTH OF THE MAJOR POWERS RECOGNIZE THE DANGER OF THE SITUATION. YOU KNOW, YOU LOOK AT THE MIDDLE EAST; NOT ONLY DO YOU HAVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS, YOU HAVE THE INTRA-ARAB RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE IMPORTANT, THEN YOU'VE GOT SUPER-IMPOSED THE WHOLE MAJOR POWER COMPLEX, THE INTEREST OF THE MAJOR POWERS AND NOW ON TOP OF ALL OF THESE YOU HAVE THIS VERY DELICATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER. THIS IS WHY I'VE OFTEN SAID THAT THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY IS THE MOST COMPLICATED SITUATION IN THE WORLD.

I FEAR AND I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THIS. I WOULD HOPE THAT I THOUGHT THAT TERRORISM WOULD BE AT AN END. I FIND THESE

- - - - -
TERRORIST ACTS DEPLORABLE, THE STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY CONDEMNING THIS LATEST TERRORIST ATTACK AND THESE TERRORIST ATTACKS HAVE TO BE UNDERSTOOD, I THINK, BARBARA, AS ANTI-PEACE ACTIONS RATHER THAN ACTIONS THAT HELP NEGOTIATIONS OR HELP MAKE PRACTICAL PROGRESS.

13. MR. VALERIANI: IN THAT CONNECTION, MR. SISCO, EARLIER IN THE YEAR, THERE SEEMED TO BE A MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NOW IT SEEMS TO HAVE SHIFTED; THERE SEEMS TO BE A MOMENTUM TOWARD WAR AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE EVENTS OF LAST WEEKEND. HOW CLOSE IS IT?

14. MR. SISCO: WELL, I'M NOT SO SURE THAT ONE CAN DESCRIBE THE PRESENT SITUATION AS A MOMENTUM TOWARDS WAR. CERTAINLY THERE'S BEEN AN INCREASE IN TENSION, BUT AS LONG AS THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 256235

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIPLOMACY REMAIN, AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE IN THAT AREA FEEL THAT THERE IS SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY, THEN I THINK WE'VE GOT A CHANCE OF MORE PRACTICAL PROGRESS AND IN THIS REGARD, I THINK THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO REMAIN KEY.

15. MR. VALERIANI: WELL, YOU'LL HAVE A VERY QUICK OPPORTUNITY TO TEST THAT WHEN THE MANDATE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS COMES UP FOR RENEWAL. ARE THE SYRIANS GOING TO AGREE TO A RENEWAL?

16. MR. SISCO: WELL THE MANDATE FOR THE U.N. FORCE ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, AS YOU SAY, COMES UP AT THE END OF THE MONTH. THE U.N. FORCE BOTH ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT AS WELL AS THE SYRIAN FRONT, IN MY JUDGMENT, IS A MAJOR ELEMENT OF STABILITY. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO THE POSITIONING OF THIS FORCE, AND I THINK IT'S ALL IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE AN EXTENSION BECAUSE IT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ITSELF. AND I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE. MY HOPE IS THAT BOTH SIDES WILL SEE THE ADVANTAGE OF MAINTAINING EVERY ELEMENT OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THIS VERY DELICATE AND TENSE PERIOD OF TIME AND THAT THE UNITED NATIONS REALLY SERVES THE INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND IS IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES.

17. MR. VALERIANI: DO YOU EXPECT IT TO BE RENEWED?

18. MR. SISCO: I'M SAYING THAT THIS MATTER OBVIOUSLY-- NO ONE CAN PREDICT WITH ANY KIND OF CERTAINTY--I'M SAYING THAT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT IT BE RENEWED AND WE'RE CERTAINLY

GOING TO WORK TO THIS END.

19. MR. VALERIANI: YOU'VE EMPHASIZED OVER AND OVER AGAIN, MR. SISCO, ABOUT THE KEY ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES. HOW MUCH PRESSURE DO YOU FEEL BECAUSE OF THE ARABS OIL WEAPON?

20. MR. SISCO: WELL, DICK, LET ME SAY VERY FRANKLY--THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY HAS GOTTEN MUCH MORE COMPLICATED THAN IT HAS BEEN OVER THE YEARS. THE UNITED STATES, AFTER ALL,

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 256235

HAS VERY SIGNIFICANT OVERALL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS IN THE AREA. I THINK I'D BE LESS THAN CANDID IF I DIDN'T SAY THAT OIL WAS A FACTOR IN THE SITUATION, OF COURSE; IT'S AN IMPORTANT SOURCE FOR OIL. THE WHOLE MONETARY PICTURE IS OF SIGNIFICANCE. BUT IN THIS CONNECTION, I THINK THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS CHARTED THE WAY VERY, VERY CLEARLY IN HIS SPEECH THAT HE GAVE RECENTLY, TO MY OLD ALMA MATER BY THE WAY, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO. I THINK HE UNDERSCORED REALLY TWO THINGS: ONE, WE IN THIS COUNTRY MUST GO AHEAD AND TAKE EVERY MEASURE TO BECOME AS INDEPENDENT AS POSSIBLE FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES. IN OTHER WORDS, TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE PROJECT INDEPENDENCE A REALITY. AND SECONDLY, ALONGSIDE THAT, IT'S OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE THAT WE TAKE THE LEAD AS WE ARE IN HELPING TO ORGANIZE THE CONSUMER NATIONS SO THAT THEY ALSO, TOGETHER WITH US, TAKE THE KIND OF PARALLEL STEPS WHICH WILL REDUCE THE RELIANCE ON THE OUTSIDE. THE SECRETARY FEELS, AND I MUST SAY I FEEL EQUALLY STRONGLY, THAT UNLESS THE CONSUMERS CAN ORGANIZE THEMSELVES IN THIS WAY, THEN THERE WILL BE DIFFICULTIES AND WE WILL BE SUBJECT TO PRESSURE.

21. MR. VALERIANI: BUT THAT'S LONG-RANGE MR. SISCO. WHAT DO YOU DO NOW IN THE SHORT TERM UNDER THESE PRESSURES?

22. MR. SISCO: I THINK THAT WE DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN IN THE SHORT-RANGE; WE DO WHAT WE CAN IN TERMS OF STABILIZING THE MONETARY SITUATION AND I THINK WE MOVE AS RAPIDLY AS WE CAN. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN LINKING THIS WHOLE MATTER WITH OUR OWN EFFORTS TOWARD A POLITICAL SOLUTION. BUT AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, WE WOULD BE GOING AHEAD TRYING TO MAKE PRACTICAL PROGRESS ON A POLITICAL SOLUTION WHETHER THIS OTHER FACTOR WAS THERE OR NOT.

23: MR. VALERIANI: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, TOSEC 188
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE256235
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: P;EDJEREJIAN:SB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740336-0530
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741186/abbrzacz.tel
Line Count: 269
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S INTERVIEW ON "TODAY" SHOW
TAGS: SOPN, US, (SISCO, JOSEPH P)
To: TOKYO
KYOTO INFO TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005